

Amendments (Clean Version)

In the Specification

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 8, and ending at line 23, with the following:

~~A-1~~ A preferred embodiment of the present invention comprises a suspension of components for the formation of a polymer, such as acrylamide, together with various solvents such as lipids, water and alcohol. More particularly, a preferred composition comprises a water suspension containing acrylamide, bis acrylamide, glycerol, guar gum and isopropyl alcohol. The suspension is mixed to completely hydrate the guar gum and dissolve the other ingredients. Subsequently, a solution such as a TEMED (N,N,N',N'-tetramethylene diamine) solution is sequentially added together with ammonium persulfate and sodium carbonate. The material is then mixed and poured into molds and allowed to gel. The gelled sheets are transferred into a drying oven for dehydration and are then rehydrated with a solution of hydrogen peroxide. After a 'rest period' of several hours, the foamed oxygen-containing material may then be cut to size and sterilized, for example, by electron beam irradiation.

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 13-20.

Please amend Claims 1, 5-6, and 12 as follows:

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~~A 2~~

1. (Once amended) An oxygen-delivery matrix, comprising,
a biocompatible matrix,
wherein the biocompatible matrix comprises a polymer network, a non-gellable polysaccharide, and oxygen,
and wherein the non-gellable polysaccharide and oxygen are dispersed throughout the polymer network, creating an oxygen-rich, closed cell polymer foam.